

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /083 W

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R 221557Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4120

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN EAID MR SG GV ML GW

SUBJECT: PLEDGES FOR SENEGAL RIVER DEVELOPMENT ORGWNIZAHSON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DIOP MAMADOU AMAFXOU, MAURITANIAN MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL RIVER DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (OMVS) COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, RETURNED JULY 21 FROM WIDE-RANGING VISIT TO POTENTIAL DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA. FRG OFFERED SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT TO OMVS, SOME OF IT APPARENTLY IN PLACE OF HOPED FOR PRC ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. UPON ARRIVAL IN NOUAKCHOTT, AMADRU CONFIRMED THAT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) WILL PARTICIPATE IN OMVS TO TUNE OF 14 BILLION CFA. ADB WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT DONOR PLEDGING SESSION SCHEDULED IN DAKAR DURING OCTOBER.

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3. AMADOU SAID HE ENCOUNTERED PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE IN FRG. GERMANY CONFIRMED THAT IT WILL PROVIDE 4 BILLION CFA TO OMV. IN ADDITION, FRG AGREED TO TAKE CHARGE OF STUDY FOR BUILDING MANATALI DAM. STUDY, WHICH WILL COST 6,000,00850M, WILL BE FRG GIFT TO OMVS. GERMANY ALSO AGREED TO PUT NUMBER OF EXPERTS AT DISPOSITION OF OMVS WHOM FRG WILL FINANCE. FINALLY, GERMANY SAID IT WOULD PARTICIPATE IN NEXT DONOR PLEDGING SESSION WHERE IT PROMISED TO ANNOUNCE NEW CONTRIBUTION WHICH WILL BE "AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE OMVS PROGRAM".

4. IN BRUSSELS, AMADOU MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (FED). AMADOU SAID FED EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OMVS ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A COMMITMENT BECAUSE THE LOME CONVENTION HAS JUST BEEN SIGNED AND CERTAIN PRACTICE PROBLEMS MUST FIRST BE RESOLVED. KF AMADOU SAID HE HOPED FED WOULD BE ABLE TO SPECIFY ITS COMMITMENT AT NEXT DONOR PLEDGING SESSION.

5. ASKED KPOUT RECENT GUINEAN INTEREST IN JOINING OMVS, AMADOU NOTED THAT GUINEA HAS NOT YET COMMUNICATED OFFICIALLY WITH ORGANIZATION. HE ADDED THAT IF GUINEA DECIDES TO BECOME MEMBER, IT MUST PRESENT ITS APPLICATION SO THAT OMVS CHIEFS OF STATE CAN MAKE DECISION.

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6. COMMENT: CLEARLY MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF TRIP TOOK PLACE IN FRG. NOT ONLY IS ADDITIONAL GERMAN PARTICIPATION NOTABLE, BUT FACT THAT IT APPARENTLY ASSUMES PART OF ROLE ONCE BELIEVED TO BE DOMAIN OF PRC IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT. REPORTS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR NUMBER OF MONTHS THAT PRC HAD OFFERED TO BUILD AND FUND MANATALI DAM. IN RECENT WEEKS, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DOUBTFUL THAT CHINESE WILL CARRY OUT MANATALI PROJECT. WE BELIEVE AMADOU'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GERMANS WILL CONDUCT STUDY OF DAM IS FIRST PUBLIC CONFIRMATION THAT PRC HAS BACKED OUT OF UNDERTAKING. IN VIEW OF MAURITANIAN DESIRE TO RETAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH PRC, WE SUSPECT THERE WILL BE NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHINESE DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN OMVS, BUT RATHER THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL REFERENCES TO DONORS WHO WILL FILL VOID LEFT BY CHINESE.

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